

Claims

What is claimed is:

1. A docking station for a mobile terminal comprising:
 - a) a signaling interface;
 - b) a mobile terminal interface adapted to detect when the mobile terminal is proximate to the docking station; and
 - c) a control system associated with the signaling interface and the mobile terminal interface and adapted to:
 - i) send a first signal via the signaling interface when the mobile terminal becomes proximate to the docking station; and
 - ii) send a second signal via the signaling interface when the mobile terminal is no longer proximate to the docking station, the first and second signals being used to determine how incoming calls intended for a user associated with the mobile terminal and the docking station are routed.
2. The docking station of claim 1 wherein the signaling interface is a wireline telephony interface adapted to interact with a wireline switch.
3. The docking station of claim 2 further comprising a dual tone multi-frequency generator associated with the wireline telephony interface and the control system, and adapted to generate the first and second signals as a series of dialed digits.
4. The docking station of claim 3 wherein the first and second signals are special feature codes.
5. The docking station of claim 3 wherein the first and second signals are directory numbers.
6. The docking station of claim 2 further comprising a wireline terminal interface for connecting to a wireline terminal, the wireline terminal interface coupled to the telephony line interface.

- 5 7. The docking station of claim 1 wherein the signaling interface is a packet-based interface adapted to interact with a service node over a packet network, the service node providing call routing instructions to the wireline switch.
8. The docking station of claim 1 wherein the first and second signals are unique.
- 10 9. The docking station of claim 1 wherein the first and second signals are identical.
- 15 10. The docking station of claim 1 wherein the mobile terminal interface comprises a recharging interface for recharging a battery of the mobile terminal when the mobile terminal is proximate to the docking station.
- 20 11. The docking station of claim 1 wherein the mobile terminal interface comprises a communication interface adapted to communicate with the mobile terminal.
- 25 12. The docking station of claim 11 wherein the communication interface and the control system cooperate to facilitate calls with the mobile terminal via the signaling interface.
- 30 13. The docking station of claim 11 wherein the communication interface makes a physical connection to the mobile terminal.
14. The docking station of claim 11 wherein the communication interface is adapted to facilitate local wireless communications with the mobile terminal.
15. The docking station of claim 1 further comprising an indicator associated with the control system and adapted to alert the user when the mobile terminal is proximate to the docking station.

16. A method comprising:
- a) sending a first signal via a signaling interface when a mobile terminal becomes proximate to a docking station; and
 - 5 b) sending a second signal via the signaling interface when the mobile terminal is no longer proximate to the docking station, the first and second signals being used to determine how incoming calls intended for a user associated with the mobile terminal and the docking station are routed.
- 10
17. The method of claim 16 wherein the signaling interface is a wireline telephony interface adapted to interact with a wireline switch.
18. The method of claim 16 wherein the first and second signals as a
- 15 series of dialed digits sent to a wireline switch.
19. The method of claim 18 wherein the first and second signals are special feature codes.
- 20 20. The method of claim 18 wherein the first and second signals are directory numbers.
21. The method of claim 16 wherein the first and second signals are sent to a service node over a packet network, the service node providing
- 25 call routing instructions to a wireline switch, which is connected to the docking station.
22. The method of claim 16 wherein the first and second signals are unique.
- 30
23. The method of claim 16 wherein the first and second signals are identical.

24. The method of claim 16 further comprising recharging a battery of the mobile terminal when the mobile terminal is proximate to the docking station.
- 5 25. The method of claim 16 further comprising communicating with the mobile terminal via the docking station.
26. The method of claim 25 further comprising facilitating calls with the mobile terminal via the signaling interface.
- 10 27. The method of claim 16 further comprising providing an indicator to alert the user when the mobile terminal is proximate to the docking station.
- 15 28. A method for routing calls to a most appropriate telephony terminal of a user comprising:
- a) receiving docking indicia indicative of a mobile terminal being proximate to a docking station;
 - b) receiving undocking indicia indicative of the mobile terminal not
20 being proximate to the docking station;
 - c) receiving incoming call indicia indicative of an incoming call intended for at least one telephony terminal associated with the user, the at least one telephony terminal including the mobile terminal; and
 - 25 d) determining how to route the incoming call based on the docking or undocking indicia.
29. The method of claim 28 further comprising effecting routing of the incoming call, wherein the incoming call is routed to a most appropriate
30 telephony terminal or through a most appropriate network based on whether the mobile terminal is proximate to the docking station.
30. The method of claim 28 wherein the docking and undocking indicia are received from a wireline switch, which is coupled to the docking station.

31. The method of claim 28 wherein the docking and undocking indicia are received from the docking station over a packet network.
- 5 32. The method of claim 28 further comprising routing the incoming call to the mobile terminal through the docking station via a wireline switch coupled to the docking station when the mobile terminal is proximate to the docking station.
- 10 33. The method of claim 28 further comprising routing the incoming call to a wireline terminal coupled to the docking station or coupled to a telephony line connected to the docking station when the mobile terminal is proximate to the docking station.